

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Combined Declaration And Power Of Attorney

As a below-named inventor, I hereby declare that: my residence, post office address and citizenship are as stated below next to my name, that I verily believe I am the original, first and sole inventor (if only one name is listed below) or as joint inventor (if plural names are listed below) of the subject matter which is claimed and for which a patent is sought on the invention entitled:

STEP PILE FABRIC AND PROCESS FOR PRODUCING THE SAME

the specification of which

- (check one)
- is attached hereto.
- was filed on _____
- as U.S. Application Serial No. _____
- was filed on December 24, 2004 as PCT
- International Application No. PCT/JP2004/019726

and (if applicable) was amended on _____

I hereby state that I have reviewed and understand the contents of the above-identified specification, including the claims, as amended by any amendment referred to above. I acknowledge the duty to disclose information known to me which is material to the examination of this application in accordance with Title 37, Code of Federal Regulations, 1.56 I hereby claim foreign priority benefits under 35 U.S.C. 119/365 of any foreign application(s) for patent or inventor's certificate listed below and have also identified below any foreign application for patent or inventor's certificate file by me or my assignee disclosing the subject matter claimed in this application and having a filing date (1) before that of the application on which priority is claimed, or (2) if no priority claimed, before the filing of this application:

PRIOR FOREIGN APPLICATION

<u>Number</u>	<u>Country</u>	<u>Filing Date Day/Month/Year</u>	<u>Date First Laid Open or Published</u>	<u>Date Patented or Granted</u>	<u>Priority Claimed</u>
2003-435465	Japan	26/12/2003			Yes

I hereby claim the benefit under 35 U.S.C. 120/365 of the United States applications listed below and PCT International applications listed above or below, if this is a continuation-in-part (CIP) application, Insofar as the subject matter disclosed and claimed in this application is in addition to that disclosed in such prior applications, I acknowledge the duty to disclose information known to me to be material to patentability as defined in 37 C.F.R. 1.56 which became available between the filing date of each such prior application and the national, or PCT International, filing date of this application:

PRIOR U.S. OR PCT APPLICATION(S)

Application No.

Day/Month/Year

Status (pending, abandoned,
granted)

I hereby declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statement and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issued thereon.

I HEREBY APPOINT the Practitioners associated with the following Customer Number as my attorneys, with full power of substitution and revocation, to prosecute this application and any continuations, divisions, reissues, and reexaminations thereof, to receive the patent(s), to transact all business in the United States Patent and Trademark Office connected therewith:

Customer No. 00757 - Brinks Hofer Gilson Lione

PLEASE RECOGNIZE or change the CORRESPONDENCE ADDRESS for this application to the address associated with the above-mentioned Customer Number.

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